SHRI M. M. JACOB: As suggested by the Vice-Chairman, I am only making a statement. The discussion on the Bill will continue because it is an important Bill. I also see its importance.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTER

I. RE: Incident of Bomb Exposion in a Mosque in Rai Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh on 3rd August, 1992.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, according to information received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh, on 3rd August, 1992 at about 0800 hours, there was a bomb explosion inside the courtyard of Jama Masjid in Mohalla Chhota Bazar in Rai Bareilly city. As a result, two children aged 10 and 11 years, who were sitting on the 'chabutra' above the basement in the courtyard of the mosque, were killed. In the explosion, a wall and the 'chabutra' in the courtyard were damaged. One girl, aged 20 years, who was sitting in the courtyard in her house adjacant to the mosque was injured; she was discharged from the hospital after first-aid.

An *ex-gratia* amount of Rs. 20,000/- each to the next of the kin of the deceased children and an amount of Rs. 1,000/- to the injured has been announced by the State Government. Arrangements are being made to repair the damaged 'chabutra' and the wall of the mosque.

On receipt of the information, senior officers reached the place of the explosion. The debris was removed from the place of the explosion to ensure that there were no dead bodies. First Information Report has been lodged by the father of the deceased children.

The State Government have informed that for speedy and effective investigation, a team of the Crime Investigation Department has been directed to visit Rai Bareilly. The team will be headed by an officer of the rank of Superintendent of Police. A strict watch on the situation is being kept by the senior officers, and police is patrolling Rai Bareilly city.

Sir, the U.P. Government has today informed through a fax message that a team of the Crime Investigation Department has already reached Rai Bareilly and started the investigation.

II. Killings by suspected militants in District Pilibhit, Uttar Pradesh.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): Sir, I rise to inform the House about the tragic incident of the killing of 29 persons in the Pilibhit District of Uttar Pradesh.

According to information received from the State Government, 19 persons from village Ghunghchai, PS Pooranpur, District Pilibhit and 10 from village Shivnagar, PS Gajraula, District Pilibhit, had gone to the nearby forest to collect some local wild vegetables on 31st July, 1992. Of these 29 persons, 3 were women. When these persons did not return, the villagers went out to search for them on the 1st of August and when they were unable to find them, they reported the matter to the police.

The police launched search and combing operations and around midday on 3rd August found the bodies by the side of a small river by the name of Khannaut. The villagers were found with their hands and feet tied and appear to have died by strangulation. An attempt also app-